Issue 54 *(January 2017)*

SPOTLIGHT

Abstract submission deadline extended till 16 January 2017

A Global Vision of Prevention
Global Forum for Prevention
3–6 September 2017
Sands Expo and Convention Centre,
Marina Bay Singapore

The World Congress on Safety and Health is the world's largest event on WSH and will be held in Southeast Asia for the first time. Singapore is honoured to host this international meeting which will see a gathering of more than 3,000 safety and health experts, business leaders, government decision makers, and advocates of occupational safety and health from around the world. Check out the symposia topics and submit your oral or poster presentation by 16 January 2017. For more information, click here.

iReference – the key to WSH knowledge

WHAT'S TRENDING

Making deliveries in double-quick time

(Source: IMDA)

A new In-Mall Distribution model is capable of reducing the time it takes to deliver and unload goods to shopping centres by more than 75 per cent. Hot on the heels of its successful pilot testing at two malls earlier this year, the system will be rolled out in 12 more locations in 2017.

More...

Relevance: Technology deployed the right way can alleviate manpower stresses, increase productivity, and improve safety.

6 Ways Mobile Apps Help Reduce Workplace Hazards

Keeping up with safety regulations and identifying workplace hazards may be a bit easier than it used to be, thanks to the availability of new apps for smartphones and mobile devices.

(Source: FixFast USA)

Relevance: How can mobile apps be used to reduce WSH hazards at your workplace?

Having problems searching for relevant WSH resources? Have you tried the iReference on the WSH Institute website? It is a customised search that allows you to have access to more relevant information on WSH from established and reliable research institutes from around the world.

RECOMMENDED READING FROM THE WSH INSTITUTE COLLECTION*

TITLE:
Normal accidents: Living with high-risk technologies

AUTHOR:
Perrow, Charles

AREA OF INTEREST:
Industrial accidents, Technology, Risk assessment, Accidents

TITLE:
Manufacturing Research and Technology, Volume 16: Advances in Factories of the Future, CIM and Robotics (e-book)

AUTHOR:
M. Cotsaftis, F. Vernadat

AREA OF INTEREST:
Research, Technology

Click here to access WSH Institute's e-books collection.

* The WSH Institute Collection is a compilation of WSH-related resources accessible to the public through our collaboration with the National Library Board (NLB).

OWL HIGHLIGHTS

1 Shaping the future of construction: A breakthrough in mindset and technology

Date of publication: May 2016
Source: World Economic Forum

This report presented an industry transformation framework for the engineering and construction (E&C) sector which can be adopted at 3 levels – at company, industry, and sector levels. It commented that companies themselves can spearhead the transformation and cited the example of new technologies in the digital space that can improve safety

conditions in the workplace. At the industry level, collaboration in the form of best-practice sharing, agreement on industry standards and coordinated communication can play an important role in driving transformation. Regulatory changes in health and safety requirements also presented a challenge to the industry. However, regulation can be a major driver to innovation if designed thoughtfully. Lastly, the paper detailed the role of governments in promoting R&D and provided examples of several initiatives across the globe, including Singapore's Construction Productivity and Capability Fund.

The report highlighted that change has to be "driven and supported by the people involved" and urged E&C companies to focus on "attracting, retaining and developing talent", apart from "establishing a company culture conducive to innovation and improved skills". Companies should "enhance coordination and cooperation across the value chain", and work collectively to "define standards and agree on common goals".

2 Workplace wellbeing: Bridging safety and health
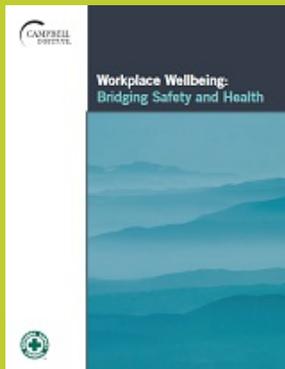
Date of publication: 2016
Source: Campbell Institute

According to this paper, a work culture that embodies health and safety requires a strong safety programme as well as a program that focuses on worker well-being. It is also easier for a well-being programme to take hold and yield positive results at workplaces with a strong foundation of safety efforts.

This paper provided insights into real-world experiences and outlined major successes and challenges faced by 9 Campbell Institute organisations during the development and maintenance of their workplace well-being programmes. A series of in-depth interviews were conducted with the participants, who included human resources managers as well as safety and health director and in-house physician. The key takeaways are:

1) **Pilot health and well-being programmes with stakeholder input**, which include the employees, leaders and other relevant stakeholders. It is important to ensure that the programmes rolled out are relevant and of interest to staff.

2) **Good communication is a must-have**. Some possible approaches include pairing health information or tips with safety information, reassuring employees that their health data is kept private and secure, and obtaining positive testimonials to garner trust and increase participation in programmes. One of the organisation included the sharing of personal success stories around weight loss and smoking cessation as one of its key success factor for their programs.

3) **Experiment with incentive structures**. You need to find a good balance of "carrots" and "sticks" to help employees continue with weight loss programmes, engage in physical fitness, quit smoking, seek assistance with any type of health issue, while at the same time, continue to improve the incentive structures

4) **Engage employees through organised fitness/wellness activities.** Some examples include fitness/wellness competitions, run/walk events, annual health assessments and biometric screenings.

5) **Connect well-being to safety** by keeping one's health numbers in check to act quickly when an issue arises, resulting in healthier and safer employees. Consequently, absenteeism, presenteeism and days of restricted work are avoided.

To read more, click here

3 Networks of influence: Practising safety leadership in low hazard environments

Date of publication: 2016
Source: Institute of Occupational Safety and Health

Safety leadership is deemed as key in improving organisational safety. This study sought to clarify who are safety leaders and what they do to ensure safety in the context of low hazard environments (LHEs) in the service sector where a larger proportion of the workforce is engaged in. Also, unlike high hazard environment where safety research typically delve into design and technical solutions, service sector organisations rely more heavily on communication and personal influence to change behaviour towards safety.

Some of the proposed practices of safety leadership include:

- Be proactive in explaining the relationship between specific interventions or practices and their anticipated outcomes

- Customise practices, taking into account the features of the current context as well as the role and position of the employee in the organisational hierarchy

- Simulate effective safety learning in organisations through double-loop learnings, which includes questioning underlying policies, encouraging input and giving feedback and adapting to changes, and

- Support leadership "in the moment" by equipping individuals to deal with presenting circumstances rather than relying on the role or position in the organisational hierarchy

4 Lethal exposure to methylene chloride during bathtub refinishing

Date of publication: 2016
Source: OSHA

This publication by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) touched on a fatal incident during the removal of bathtub coating in a residential building using paint remover containing methylene chloride. The worker's death was caused by asphyxiation, combined with acute methylene chloride toxicity. OSHA recommended the use of safer alternatives to methylene chloride such as water-based and vegetable-based products for paint stripping, when available.

Employers need to consider the following when using methylene chloride paint stripping product:

- Perform monitoring and air sampling to determine worker exposure to methylene chloride

- Establish and implement a respiratory protection programme

- Provide adequate ventilation

- Provide and maintain effective engineering and work practice controls

- Provide and enforce the use of proper personal protective equipment

- Provide essential methylene chloride hazard training for workers.

Other Useful Resources

- **Tech Trends 2017** *(Frog Design)*

- **Mindfulness-based stress reduction for managers: A randomized controlled study** *(Occupational Medicine)*

- **Rare case of type I hypersensitivity reaction to sodium hypochlorite solution in a healthcare setting** *(BMJ)*

- **Results of a fall prevention educational intervention for residential construction** *(Science Direct)*

- **Life in the fast lane** *(SMA)*

*OWLinks is brought to you by **Workplace Safety and Health Institute, Singapore**. OWLinks enables leaders and professionals to keep abreast of the latest WSH development and trends from around the world.*

For enquiries or feedback, please email us at *contact@wshi.gov.sg*
Visit the *WSH Institute website* for updates on WSH-related matters, information and events.

Vision: A leading Institute for WSH knowledge and innovations.
Mission: Enhancing WSH through knowledge, innovations and solutions.

If you wish to update your OWLinks profile, please click here.

If you do not wish to continue receiving the OWLinks by email, please click here to unsubscribe.

An Initiative of

The Observatory for WSH Landscape (OWL) is a function of Workplace Safety and Health Institute. OWL aims to observe, analyse and communicate changes in the workforce, workplace and working life to researchers, policy makers and industries in Singapore and Asia.